

## CAPSULE SUMMARY CT - 1095

The privately-owned D. O. Bowen barn is located just north of Prince Frederick. This 32 x 30 foot structure is quite unusual. Large hewn tier poles served to hang tobacco and to support the structure, and there is no evidence for cross-sills or interior poles ever having been used. Construction techniques and materials include hewn timbers, fully mature machine cut nails, original horizontal siding (replaced c. 1935), and a triangular false plate.

The cross-axial plan is served by double doors on the east and west sides, and a four foot door on the north side. An empty post mortise in the south end plate suggest an original door along that wall. This barn contains the only example of "barn art" - a carving of three log canoes (with full sails )in one of the tier poles.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common D.O. Bowen Barn

### 2. Location

street &amp; number M.F. Bowen Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Prince Frederick \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district

state MD county Calvert

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	___ museum
___ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	___ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	___ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name D.O. Bowen

street &amp; number 820 Monroe telephone no.: 263-6506

city, town Annapolis state and zip code MD 21401

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber

street &amp; number Main Street (MD 765) folio

city, town Prince Frederick state MD

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. CT-1095

### Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

See Attachment.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. CT-1095

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

See Attachment.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CT-1095

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Prince Frederick, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting NorthingB 

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Zone Easting NorthingC 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tora L. Williamsen-Berry

c/o Calvert county Historic District Commission  
organization Dept. of Planning and Zoning date June 30, 1990

street &amp; number Courthouse Prince Frederick telephone 535-1600

city or town state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

## 7. DESCRIPTION CT-1095

The D.O. Bowen barn is associated with the old Bowen farm, and is located on the south side of M.F. Bowen road, approximately one mile from its intersection with highway 4. The barn is a thirty-two by thirty foot unusual structure dating to the early nineteenth century. The timbers are hewn, and fully mature machine cut nails are visible. The siding was horizontal and is now vertical. The plan is cross-axial and has double doors on the east and west sides. There is a four foot wide door on the north side. There is circumstantial evidence of a four-foot wide door on the south side, indicated by the empty post mortise in the remaining original top plate.

The heavy timber frame of the barn is supported on field stone piers and concrete blocks. The sills are hand hewn and measure eight by twelve inches. The posts are six by eight inches, hand hewn and joined via mortise and tenon with trunnels. A few of the posts are circular sawn replacements. The down braces are hand hewn and pit sawn and measure six by eight inches. The horizontal nailing rails are re-used two by four inch hewn and pit sawn timbers. They were originally the studs of the barn, prior to the removal of the horizontal siding and its replacement with vertical siding. Wire nails attach the re-used studs in their current positions, indicating that the change from horizontal to vertical siding took place sometime after 1880. Fully mature machine cut nails remain in the studs from the time period when these had horizontal siding nailed to them. There are mortises in the top plate and sill where these studs were previously extant.

The exterior is covered with vertical siding. There are hinged ventilation doors on all sides. The east and west side have ten each, and there are four on the north and south sides. The south side has a vent door in the eave. The exterior siding is held down with battens where the vent doors are not extant. The sills are closed off with circular sawn boards nailed beneath the sill that extend to the ground. The rafters are on two foot centers and rest on a triangular false plate. A standing seam metal roof replaces the original shingle roof (attested to by the shingle nailers underneath the metal). The top plate is hand hewn except for the north side, which is a replacement. The tie beams are lapped over the plate. The tier poles are unusually large pit sawn and hewn beams that measure three by seven inches. They are separated by thirty-seven inches vertical distance.

There is a carving of three log canoes on one of the internal tier pole timbers. This carving has been photographed. There is also evidence of wear on the lower three tier poled beams at the north end. According to Mr. William Bowen this wear is the result of the scraping of a tobacco prize handle across the timbers. The tobacco prize is no longer in the barn.

7. DESCRIPTION (CONT.) CT-1095

There is a fourteen foot wide addition to the south end of the barn built during the period when wire nails and circular sawn timbers were most frequently used. The frame is supported on concrete blocks. There is a ten foot wide set of double doors on the south side of this addition, that allow access into the barn. Some re-used timbers are used. Nailers were added to the external posts of the barn in order to attach the addition. A stripping room was built in the southeast corner of the addition at a later date. This stripping room is partially underground. It is floored four feet above ground. The stripping room is constructed of a concrete block and timber frame.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE CT-1095

This barn is a significant representative of tobacco barns dating to the early nineteenth century in Calvert County. There are several elements in its construction that are unusual. The original barn was nearly square. It had no poles down the central axis, or any cross-sill, but rather, large hewn tier pole timbers served to hang the tobacco and to support the structure. This arrangement has not been seen in any other barn documented by this survey. Also of interest is the triangular false plate (not tilted), that may be indicative of an even earlier date for the barn. The carving in the tier pole/beams is interesting and is the only example of "barn art" found in this survey.

This barn also yields information regarding agricultural history in Southern Maryland. In February 1990, a tobacco barn survey was initiated in order to study the tobacco barns of Calvert County. Until fairly recently, tobacco was the most important farm crop of the county. More acreage was devoted to its cultivation than for both of the next most extensive farm products (corn and wheat). The barns and stripping houses related to this "Tobacco Culture" are widely recognized as the most common element on the rural landscape. These structures are also the most threatened, as the market for tobacco declines. They seem to have, at present, only limited capabilities for re-use. Many barns and stripping houses now stand empty. The purpose of this survey has been to gather information and document a wide sample of these structures before they disappear from the landscape.

Historical Period theme(s): ca. 1830-; Tobacco; Agriculture  
Geographical Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert Cty MD  
Chronological/Developmental Period: 1830-Present  
Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn

Mr. Billy Bowen, the previous owner, states that the barn was standing in 1882 when his grandfather William Bowen bought the land from the Mortons. When William Bowen was 12 or 13 (c. 1935), it had horizontal siding and a shed on the east side. At this time, it was straightened up and the addition was constructed. Vertical siding substituted for the horizontal because it was less expensive and more readily available. At this time, the studs were removed from their location and substituted for nailing rails.

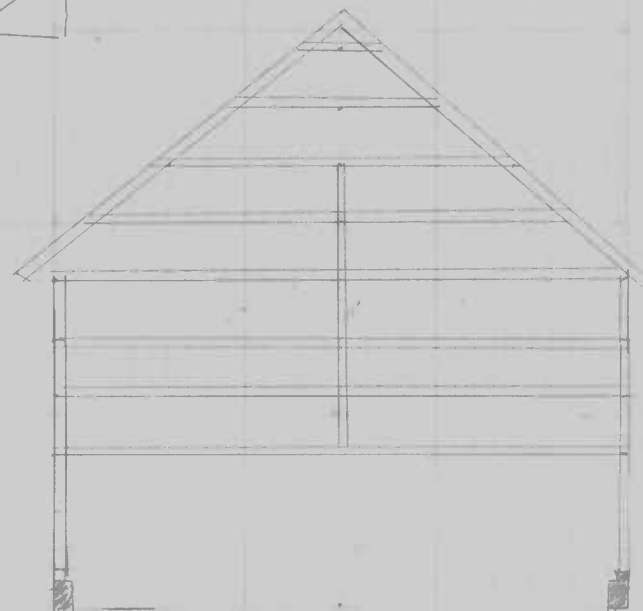
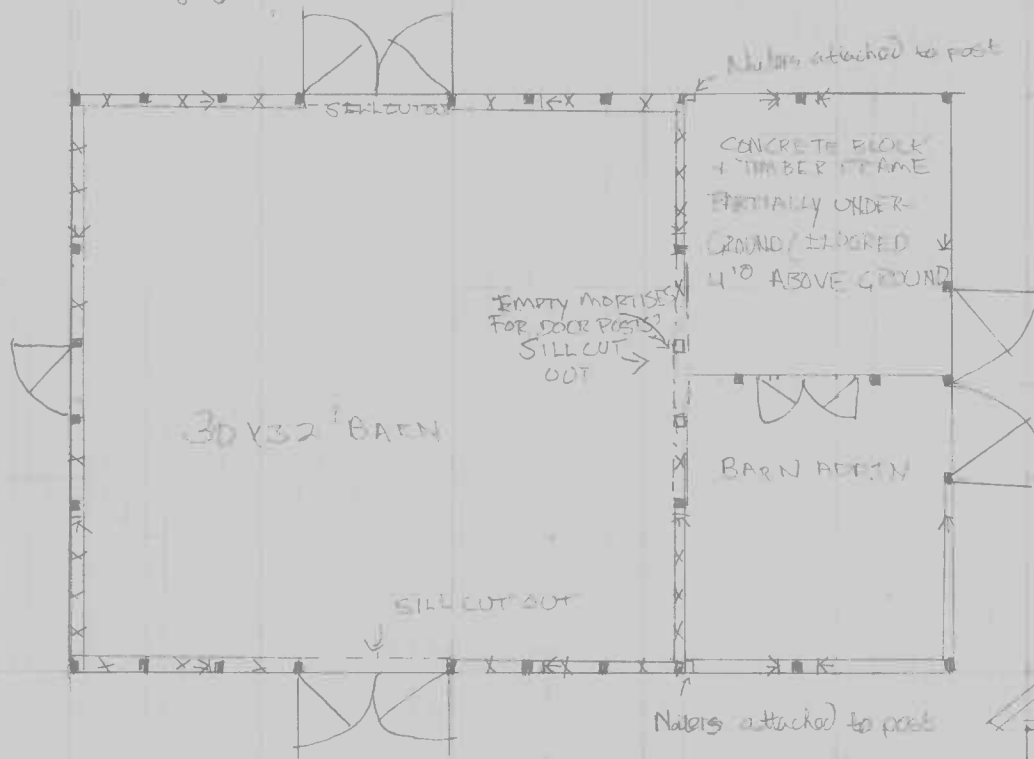


CT-1095

BARN # 2068 D.D. BOWEN BARN - 4/24/90

8' 8" 3' 17" 21' 9" 30'

N ←



BARN # 2064 / DOWELL  
 4/23/1990  
 PJM/Gwire  
 T. Williamsen

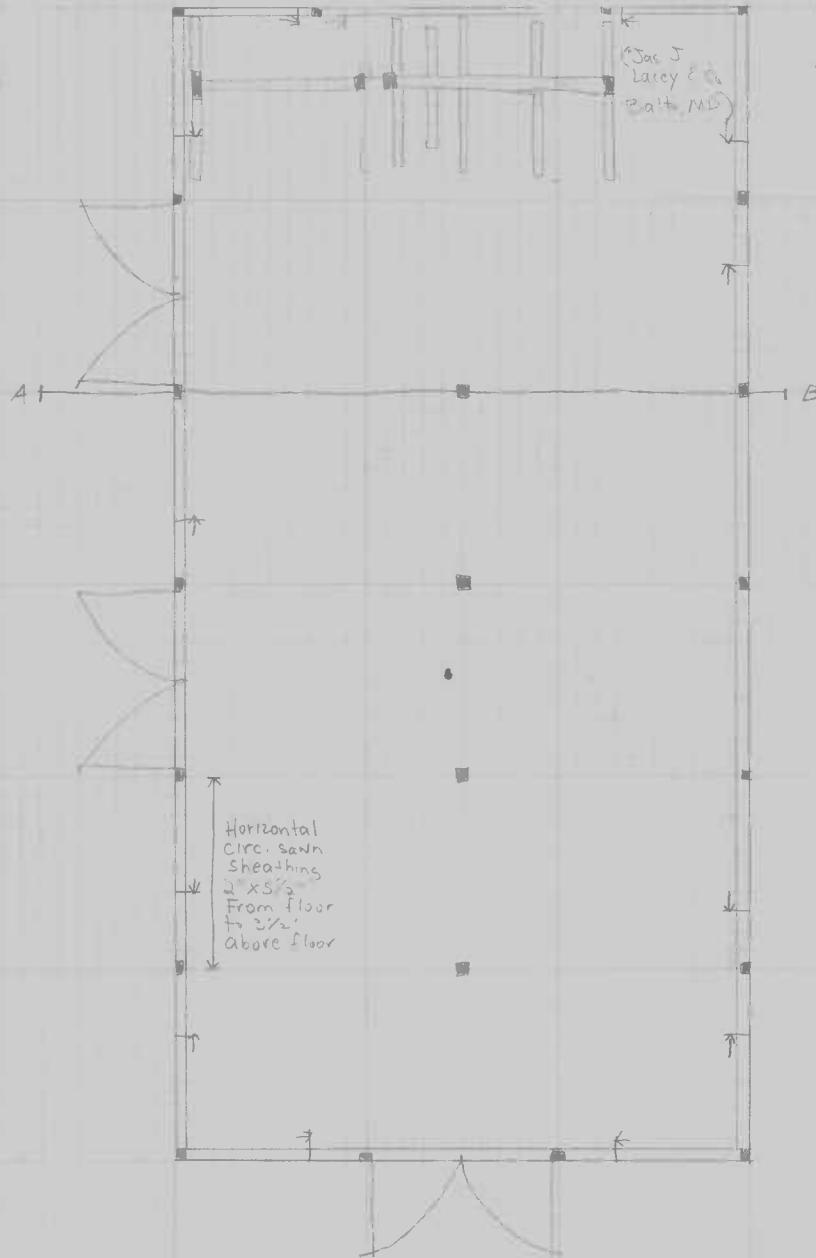
CT-1091

(DOES NOT GO WITH CT-1095)  
 SEE CT-1091

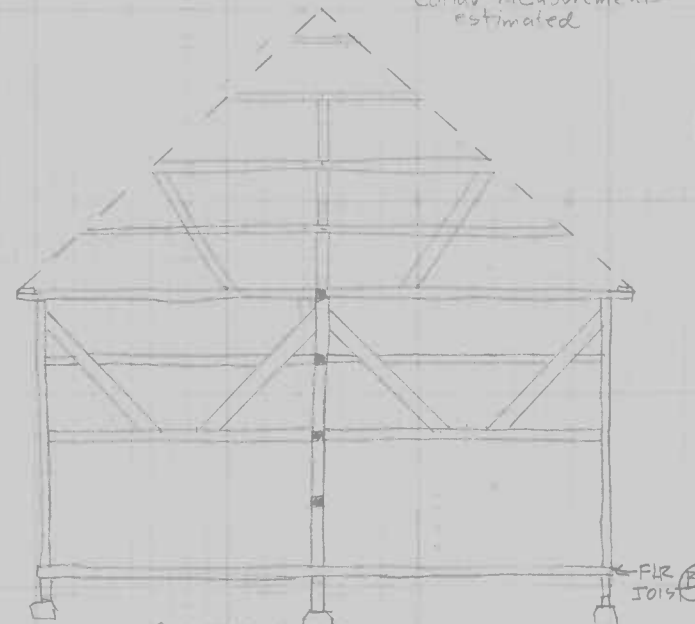


N

Barn apparently  
 constructed  
 for PRIZC  
 see N-S  
 section for arch  
 modifications

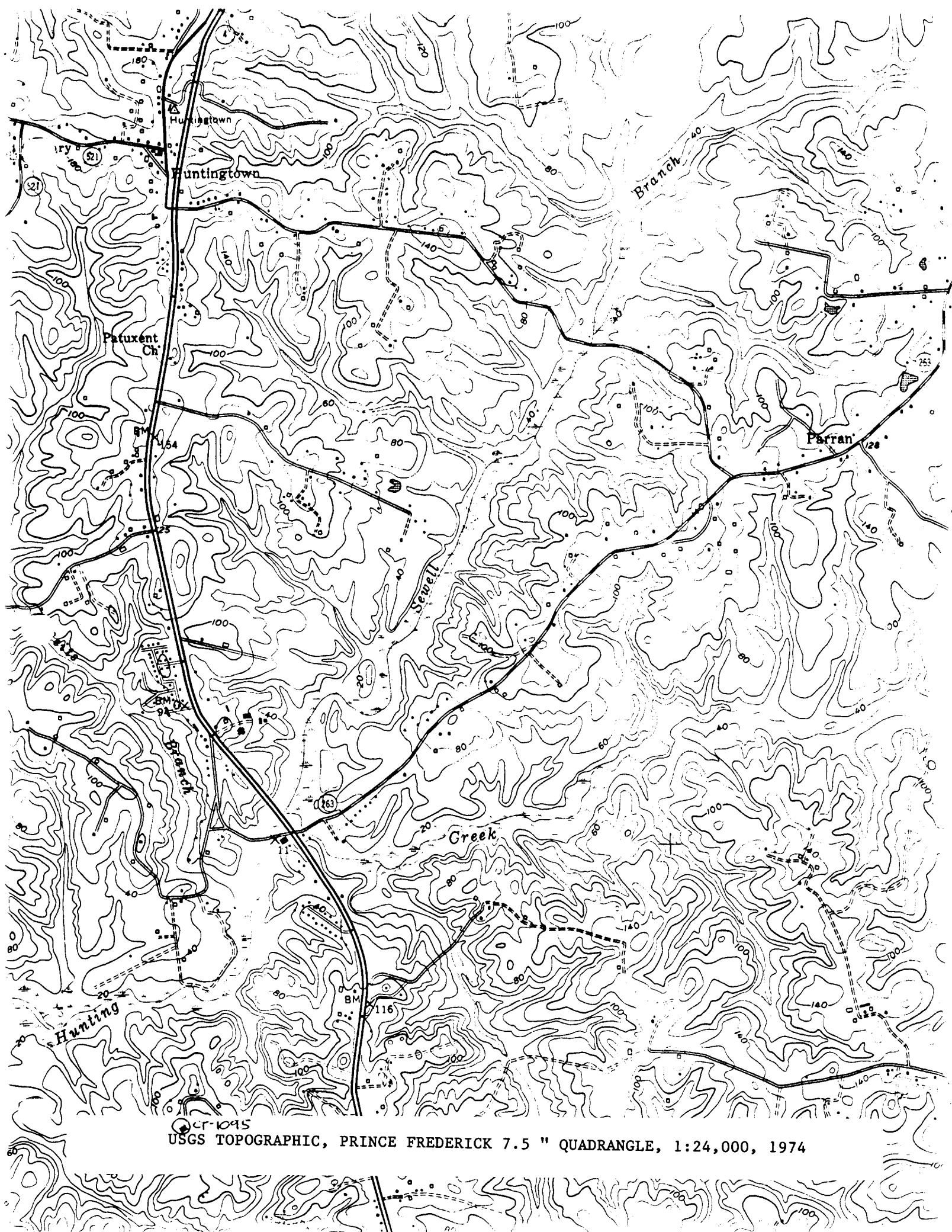


(A)



SECTION AT A-B  
 LOOKING N





USGS TOPOGRAPHIC, PRINCE FREDERICK 7.5 " QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1974



CT - 1095

D. O. Bowen Barn  
Prince Frederick  
Tora L. Williamsen  
West